

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF EDUCATION

OF THE

CITY OF PLAINFIELD.

FOR THE

Year Ending August 31, 1892.

1893.

THE COURIER
BOOK AND JOB PRINT
PLAINFIELD, N. J.

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BOARD OF EDUCATION:

GEO. H. BABCOCK, - - - President,
E. L. FINCH, - - - Secretary.
Rev. J. L. HURLBUT, Dr. J. B. PROBASCO,
F. C. LOUNSBURY.

ANNUAL REPORT
1898-99

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Plainfield, September 1, 1892.

The Board of Education respectfully submit herewith its Annual Statement and report of the City Superintendent and Supervising Principal of Schools.

On Behalf of the Board.

E. L. FINCH,
Secretary.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Receipts and Expenditures

FOR THE YEAR ENDING AUGUST 31, 1892.

RECEIPTS.

Cash balance on hand Sept. 1, 1891.....		\$13,481 40
District taxes received from Collector of city:		
Arrears, 1881.....	\$6 45	
1882.....	5 00	
1883.....	23 43	
1884.....	30 78	
1885.....	29 26	
1886.....	43 13	
1887.....	60 62	
1888.....	159 95	
1889.....	613 41	
1890.....	1,714 44	
1891.....	32,316 98	
		35,003 45

STATE TAXES RECEIVED FROM TREASURER OF CITY.

State appropriation.....	678 42	
State school tax.....	13,493 40	
“ “ “ 10 per cent.....	1,499 27	
		15,671 09
Interest on arrears tax rec'd from Collector,		539 54
Tuition from non-residents.....		2,193 60

LIBRARY ACCOUNT.

From State.....	60 00	
From entertainment.....	51 20	
		111 20
Building account by loan from the Mutual Life Insurance Co., N. Y., for Bryant Building Extension.....		15,000 00

\$82,000 28

EXPENDITURES.

Teacher's salaries.....	28,037 74	
Janitor's salaries.....	3,220 00	
Clerk's salary.....	283 33	
		31,541 07
Books, stationery and general supplies.....	726 14	
Fuel.....	1,179 00	
Gas.....	58 55	1,963 69
Running School Expenses.....		33,504 76

Repairs.....	2,825 20	
Furniture	754 02	
Insurance premium, 3 years.....	426 48	
Printing.....	97 60	
Census taking, 1891-2.....	272 05	
Incidentals.....	848 29	
Assessor and Collector fees.....	495 25	
		<hr/>
Library account, books.....		5,718 89
Payment on indebtedness, bond and mortgage	4,000 00	293 58
Interest, do.....	4,024 17	
		<hr/>
		8,024 17

BUILDING BRYANT EXTENSION.

Mason work.....	5,831 60	
Carpenter work.....	5,571 80	
Heating.....	1,739 74	
Painting.....	575 00	
Architect.....	676 50	
Grading.....	28 87	
Legal Fees.....	102 10	
		<hr/>
		14,525 61

CASH BALANCE ON HAND SEPTEMBER 1, 1892.

General Account.....	19,424 34	
Building account.....	474 39	
Library account.....	34 54	19,933 27
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		\$82,000 28

Respectfully submitted,

E. L. FINCH, Secretary. GEORGE H. BABCOCK, President.

E. L. FINCH,
REV. J. L. HURLBUT, } Auditing Committee.

Plainfield, N. J., January 14, 1893.

ASSETS SEPTEMBER 1, 1892.

Cash balance.....	\$ 19,933 27
Arrears tax, 1881 to 1892.....	8,000 00
Buildings, Etc.....	190,250 00
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	\$218,183 27

LIABILITIES.

Washington building, bonds, 7 per cent.....	\$ 3,000 00
Franklin building, bond and mortgage, 5 per cent.....	16,000 00
Bryant building, bond and mortgage, 5 per cent.....	27,000 00
Irving building, bond and mortgage, 5 per cent.....	31,000 00
	<hr/>
Total.....	\$77,000 00

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF PLAINFIELD, N. J.

To Hon. A. B. Poland, State Superintendent:

One of our constant and serious problems is the accommodation of our rapidly increasing school population. An addition of four rooms to the Bryant school, opened at the holidays, was at once occupied by divisions of over-crowded primary classes. A trained kindergarten graduate of Mme. Kraus Boelte's school was placed in charge of the youngest class in a suitably furnished room, and we were thus brought one step nearer our ideal in the earliest training or toward the time when each school, with a room suitably furnished, shall have children of three or four years of age under wise and skillful direction, developing naturally through utilized play and work to trained habits of observation and self-activity and with acquired facility for the work of the primary.

THE HIGH SCHOOL.

The next problem will be the accommodation of the High School. It is gradually enlarging its scope and members. Its science work is under the direction of a specialist, and the language classes are crowded to the present limits of the room. The interest in higher education is increasing yearly.

Of the nineteen graduates of this year all of the eight boys and some girls expect to enter upon the academic or scientific course of some college, and of the thirty or more coming seniors most of the girls and boys have already chosen their college and have taken preliminary examinations. Amherst has this year been added to the long list of those receiving our graduates by certificate. One interesting feature has been the voluntary interest in self improvement. Debates, senate sessions, papers and other literary efforts, private and

public, were some of the means of self-training. Two lectures by Prof Frederick Starr, of the Museum of Natural History, one on "Early Language," another on the "Daily Life of the Chinese," and a course of lectures on American authors, Holmes, Lowell, Hawthorne, Emerson, by Leon H Vincent, were given under the direction of the High School and netted a handsome sum for an addition to our library. The alumni association, now numbering over three hundred, has this year formed a permanent organization.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Arithmetic.—All home work is memory work, and to secure more intelligent, independent and thoughtful work in arithmetic has been the aim of the teacher in her direct work with the class. Mental training in grasping the conditions of a problem is made as prominent as skill and accuracy in getting results.

Geography.—More comprehensive plans in geography include the study of natural conditions, their relations and their modifying effects. The librarian of our public library has noticed the increasing interest, as pupils with note-books gathered material from all available sources for the topics thus developed.

History.—Graphic illustrations have been made a prominent feature of U. S. history, and varieties of methods have been used to impress causes and relations of events.

Language.—Language has formed a part of every lesson although receiving attention in daily special lessons. Free oral expression by the pupils should however be made more prominent to correspond with the training in the written form.

Penmanship.—The experiment was tried this year of omitting regular lessons in penmanship for the half year in the grammar grades. Since pen and ink is used in the first year in the primary and those in the higher primary grades write as well as formerly in the grammar classes, this will eventually do away with the necessity of training in penmanship in the grammar grades, except in special cases, and permit the use of the time in other directions.

Science.—The classes have made a marked advance in their study of Plainfield fauna, flora and minerals, grouping and classifying, with a study of their most marked characteristics, their observations of birds, trees, plants, moths and butterflies, in some classes

keeping a daily record of changes noted Simple experiments, with such apparatus as each pupil could command at his home, have also been given in each room by a specialist with review by the teacher, in illustration of the laws of natural science thus enlarging and enriching the grammar course.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

In no department have we more skillful teachers nor has there been more marked advance in the methods and general intelligence of the pupils. The results also show that there are dangers in modern methods.

From the extreme of the old memory training in number we are in danger of neglecting memory. Objects and illustrations are but a means to grasp number and its relations and careful drill and memory work should fasten results. Some of the most interesting sectional teachers' meetings of the year have been in the primary in which the inventive genius of the teacher has illustrated skill in developing interest or power in fastening facts with classes or well developed plans and theories have been explained in papers by the teachers.

GENERAL RESULTS.

The result of such skillful training in the primaries has been that individual promotions have been frequent through the year in primary and grammar grades, the work has been advanced beyond the course in classes which have even permitted the three years' work of a grammar grade to be finished in two by a large section of the class.

The growing special needs of each department has resulted in the formation of sectional teachers' meetings, in which the aim has been to join special study of the philosophy of pedagogy with practice. General meetings have also been held and the teachers have had special pleasure in discussions and lectures. The "Aims of Early Educations" by Miss Tefft, a graduate of the Pestalozzi-Fröbel-Ferein of Berlin, was joined with chatty reminiscences of her own experiences in general schools. A lecture on "General Principles of Education," was also given by Dr. J. W. Dickinson, Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education. Last year we were indebted to two members of our Board of Education for lectures to teachers, one from Mr. George H. Babcock, our present President, on "Prin-

ciples of Ventilation," another on "Memory Training," by Rev. Dr. Hurlbut.

The graduates from the High School form the training class and these have a course of two years with training in psychology, pedagogical principles and methods.

Flag Days.—Instead of permitting the constant wear of our flags we have this year named certain flag days with a national or local significance. The educational effect has been felt in the school and even in the community in the many inquiries as to the occasion, and the morning lesson of patriotism in the school has been enforced.

The Library.—An important factor in any school is the use of the library. Our training in literature in the primaries through the use of periodicals has resulted in an added interest in standard authors. The books of the library have been divided among the schools according to their grades; new books were purchased with the proceeds of the concerts, added to the State appropriation, and each primary school was furnished with standard authors and books of reference; the grammar grades have books of travel and historical reading, with more advanced standard authors, and these are used in class in a reading period or taken home for preparation for the oral or written book review; selections are memorized, after some analysis of thought, and a store of material is prepared for the four years' critical study of literature in the High School.

Drawing.—Drawing has been taught on a more comprehensive plan than before, and beside connecting geometrical forms with molding in clay, paper cutting and pasting, there has been design from study of nature with drawing, historic ornament, drawing from casts, mechanical and free hand, have formed part of the well-developed plan.

Looking back over eleven years of supervision we find complete revolution in methods and finish in primary work, in development of grammar with a better philosophic basis, and a general culture and expansion in the High School.

Moral training has resulted in a more law-abiding, self-controlled and self-respecting tone of public opinion and a healthy interest in athletics shows that the physical has not been neglected. "We have not attained but strive toward our ideal."

One proof of the value of the school to neighboring cities is the fact that tuition for members out of the district, filling only

vacant places in our class rooms, has been for the year 1891-'92, \$2,189.60, while the tuition eleven years ago, 1880-'81, was \$287 60.

The best conditions for successful school work exist in Plainfield in a cultured, faithful, efficient corps of teachers and in a Board of Education, intelligent, independent of favoritism or political influence, who recognize as motive forces in their direction, only the highest good of the school and of the community.

JULIA E. BULKLEY,
City Superintendent and Supervising Principal of Plainfield
Public Schools.

